

The Shepherd's Staff

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

4503 Old William Penn Highway

Monroeville, PA 15146

Office: 412-372-2934 • Fax: 412-372-2437

Website: www.goodshepherdlife.org

January

2009

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2009

Following the 10:30 am service;
all members are encouraged to attend

Reception in Honor of Jason Tost

Sunday, January 4, 2009

Following the 10:30 am service

Keeping God's House - Building For the Future

Construction begins January 2009

Watch for changes in room assignments and detours

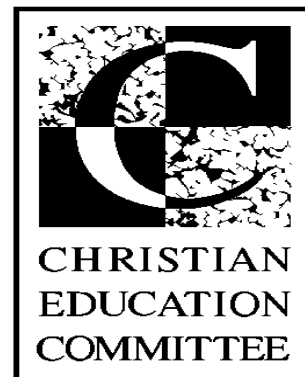
Worship Services

Sunday 8:00 AM / 10:30 AM
Gladssound 6:00 PM / January 10, 2009
Pew Communion 2:00 PM / January 11, 2009

Our Mission

*The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ
through Word and Worship,
Fellowship and Service to all people.*

Are you considering helping out more at church? If so, the Christian Education Committee is always looking for volunteers. Try teaching one of our Sunday School, Confirmation or Adult Forum classes which run from September until May, Sunday mornings at 9:00. In June, consider volunteering for our Vacation Bible School program. Even in the off season, we need your help researching new programs, ordering materials and setting up for fall classes. There are opportunities for serving at one-time events as well. Contact Rose Shirer at rmshirer@comcast.net or 724-327-0482 to find out how you can join our team in providing faith building programs for all ages.



NEW!



Recycle at Church!

Bag up your newspapers, magazines, and junk mail and bring it to church. Good Shepherd Lutheran is now offering an on-site collection point for all your discarded paper. Recycling is good stewardship of God's Creation, reducing our landfill use the amount of energy required by the paper production process. (Did you know that 40% of everything that is in a landfill is paper!) As an added bonus, our church's youth ministry receives funds for every ton of paper recycled.

YES!

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Junk mail
- Catalogs
- Office paper
- Colored paper
- Envelopes

NO!

- Plastic
- Glass
- Metals
- Trash
- Wet paper
- Phone books
- Cardboard



Recycling Is Good Stewardship!

YOUTHCUBE: THIS IS NOT GOODBYE

To the young people of The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

This is not goodbye. Let that be the first and last thing that you hear in this.

Some time ago, one of you (I can't remember who right now) asked me a rather innocent question. "So Jason, um, where do you *work*?" We were playing ping pong at the time, down in the basement of the Parish House, and I remember grabbing the ball out of the air and stopping the game so that I could hear the question again.

"Yeah, where do you work? Like, what do you do for a *job*?"

I told him that I played ping pong for a living. At the time, he seemed duly impressed.

I suppose the reason for the question lay in the impossible coolness of this job. (Youth ministry, not professional ping pong.) In his mind, and I suppose many others, it was inconceivable that you could grow up, own a car, own a house, and collect a paycheck for playing laser tag with a bunch of rowdy teenagers. Or for being a mediocre guitar player. Or just for being a good listener. Come to think of it, that does sound pretty crazy.

But it's all true, and I'm living proof of the possibility of having a job that's so incredibly great that you would do it for free.

Or maybe his question arose out of the disbelief that anyone would pay someone to hang out with *him*. But that's true too. The adults of your church, in their infinite wisdom, feel that all of you are so great, so special, so vitally important to the future, that they would pay someone to hang out with you and be your ... what? Mentor? Spiritual big brother? The relationship is kind of hard to classify, but trust me when I tell you that I love all of you like little brothers and sisters. And not just because I'm contractually obligated.

Unfortunately, with every dream, and with some dream jobs, there comes a time to wake up. And with the birth of my second son, River, it's become necessary for me to find another place to work that will keep the diapers and baby formula coming regularly. I've accepted a job in software development, and starting in January, I will no longer be "that weird youth guy" at the church. I'll just be "that weird guy".

I've prayed long and hard about this. And I wish that God had dropped a neat solution in my lap that ended with me retiring at 65 with the title of "oldest living youth minister". That's not the path before me, though. I know that this does not mean the end of my service to God, or even my service in youth ministry. It just means change.

This will mean some changes around the halls of Good Shepherd too. Someone else will eventually be sitting at my desk, probably keeping it measurably neater. Someone else will have the unenviable task of keeping you awake 'till dawn at the next Lock In. Someone else will get the impossibly cool job of being your spiritual big brother or big sister. They'll get to love you, and know you, and they'll get to share in those most intimate conversations about God, faith, and life that I've been privileged to be a part of over the past nearly seven years.

(cont.)

Already I'm incredibly jealous. And sad.

But this is not goodbye. I'm not moving, and I have no intention of changing churches. (You may not know this, but that you're already at the best church around, hands down.) You'll still see me Sunday mornings in worship, and leading our basement YABS class. You'll still find me playing guitar from time to time. You'll still catch me digging over the hill in the community garden and quizzing you on your highs and lows. I'll still be a part of your life, if only in a different capacity.

Remember when I said that this job is so incredibly great that I would do it for free? I meant it. You haven't seen the last of me. Not by far.

So do me a favor. When the time comes, welcome the new youth guy/girl with open arms. Give them the opportunity to get to know you and walk alongside you in this great journey of faith. Help them in becoming a part of our church family. (Just don't give away all the best hiding places for Sardines. Some things you should have to learn on your own.)

And lastly, know this: as much as I have shaped, or tried to shape your lives in the likeness of Christ, you have shaped me more. I have learned more about the nature of God and the love of Jesus from you, the young people of The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, than I have from any other source. I am forever in your debt, and I will always remember the time we shared together in this holy space.

Thank you. Thank you thank you thank you.

And remember ... this is not goodbye.

Peace and love,

Jason



Thank You

**HOLY HODGE - PODGE - THINGS SEEN, READ AND HEARD...
...THAT MAY GIVE YOU PAUSE TO THINK...**

...Happy New Year - 2009. What happened to 2008? I guess it could be my age, but 2008 seems to just have flown by. Already we all have to write 2009 on checks, documents, letters to friends, etc. I don't think anyone will forget all the things that happened this past year, the good and the bad, but there was one constant that we all share - God's love and care for all believers. God is the one constant in our lives and for that we should thank Him.

...We have all seen the growth of God's house here at The Good Shepherd - new members, new programs, new volunteers, new worship services, new hope and all because we hear God's word over and over again.

...We have heard our wonderful Bell Choirs, pastor's sermons, Doug's masterful organ playing, Gladsound, children's programs, laughter, friends greeting friends - All are pleasing to God's ear and most especially our prayers for help and for thanksgiving.

...In 2009 think about these words that Christians hear:

"Lo, I am with you always."

"Be not afraid."

"For God so loved the world..."

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."

"And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long."

We have heard Hallelujahs and Allelujahs but the most important words of all?

"Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed."

This is not just something we say on Easter. May this be part of our prayers every day and every hour.

A Blessed and Peaceful New Year,

Jan Roth, *Editor*

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are excited to announce that our church will be putting together a new pictorial directory. Our new directory will be a great way to putting faces with names.

1. Every participating family will receive a free pictorial directory and a free 8 x 10, and the opportunity to purchase portraits at a special savings.
2. You will only have to make one visit to the church as you will be photographed and view your poses in one visit.
3. Please stop at one of the sign up tables each Sunday starting January 11, 2009 to schedule your appointment. Sign up will be after the early Church service and before the second Church service.

The dates and times for the pictures are as follows:

February 19, Thursday 3:00 - 9:30

March 20, Friday 3:00 - 9:30

March 21, Saturday 10:00 - 5:00

Appointments will be scheduled for every 10 minutes. Remember the sooner you schedule you're appointment, the more times you'll have to choose from.

See you in our new directory.

Thank you,

The Witness Committee



Parish Prayer Concerns

RECENT BIRTHS

Matthew Daniel McClain

SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Bill Davey, Joey Gross, Keith Humes, DJ Price, Eric Bently

KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED AS OF December 17th:

Joseph Gatto (Forbes)

FOR HEALING:

Adam Pugliano, Jen Applegate, Kathryn Porro, Ann Hurey, Patty Hall, Christopher Molnar, Fran Lewis, Gary Mitrick, Evelyn Edwards, Burnace Tharp, Ann Kusnerick, Bob Gelbke, , Howard McFarland

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Pastor William Osterlin, Elizabeth Mihalic, Henrietta Adams, Veronica Zvolensky

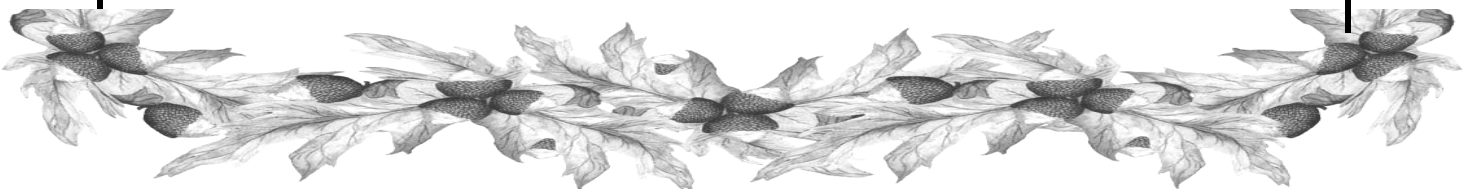
CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Jayme Kuhn, Chris Wadding, Amanda Conte, Tom Napfel, Joan Bradshaw, Robert Coddington, Sr, Robert Coddington, Jr., Katie Sechrist, Joye Hickman, Jaina Sapp, Carson Rudick

WE ALSO REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Sophie Baranuk, Evelyn Edwards, Don Emberg, Lois Fleming, Joanna Fest, Clyde Hillwig, Jim Litzinger, Edna Lee, Edna Neild, Marian Beam, Nancy Gardner, Wayne Scheutz

*If you would like a name placed on the prayer list,
please use the card in the pew rack or contact the church office.*



SERVING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Acolytes 8:00 am	Acolytes 10:30 am	Altar Guild	Greeters 8:00 am	Greeters 10:30 am	Ushers
<p>01/04 TBA</p> <p>01/11 TBA</p> <p>01/18 TBA</p> <p>01/25 TBA</p>	<p>01/04 TBA</p> <p>01/11 TBA</p> <p>01/18 TBA</p> <p>01/25 TBA</p>	<p>8:00 Jack & Donna Whitlam</p> <p>10:30 Georgianna Wiesner</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 10px 0;">Counters</div> <p>Steve Smith Nancy Smith Linda Hainley</p>	<p>01/04 Margaret Golick</p> <p>01/11 Debbie & Allan Berkheimer</p> <p>01/18 Louise Jones</p> <p>01/25 Mary Pasko</p>	<p>01/04 David & Carol Lanzer</p> <p>01/11 Chris, Wanda, Jamie, Jessica Rachel, Brian Hellested</p> <p>01/18 Chris, Wanda, Jamie, Jessica Rachel, Brian Hellested</p> <p>01/25 Rich & Georgia Solomon</p>	<p>8:00 Mark Shirer Rose Shirer Brittany Shirer</p> <p>10:30 Rolf Hellested Melanie Ash Miranda Ash</p>
<p>* TBA = To Be Announced</p>					

SNOW POLICY

Sunday Worship: Holy Communion on Sundays will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather, unless the government declares a state of emergency and the roads are closed, in which case the church will close. However, parishioners are urged to use their best judgment and not venture out in dangerous conditions. In extreme weather please pray and worship at home rather than risk travel. **Youth Events:** If on a weekday the Gateway School District cancels classes due to the weather, then youth events, including the Youth Band, are cancelled that day. Regarding weekend events, please contact Jason Tost. **Tuesday Bible Study:** If the Gateway School District delays or cancels classes on a Tuesday, Bible Study will be cancelled that day. **Bell Choir Practices:** If the Gateway School District is closed, there will be no bell choir practices. If classes are delayed or the weather conditions are questionable, call Director Judy Stewart. **Chancel Choir Practices:** Please contact Director Doug Duca regarding the choir's schedule in inclement weather.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Did you know there is a Sunday School class for you? We have Sunday School classes for ages 3 through Adult. Our Adult class meets in Room 1, across from the front hallway in the Sunday School wing. Our Adult class is using Akaloo, a program with discussion topics such as Discovering the Bible: What does the Bible say?, Experiencing God: Who is God?, and Becoming a Disciple. Who am I? These are just a few of the discussion topics. So drop off your child in his or her Sunday School class, grab a cup of coffee and meet in Room 1 for adult learning and fellowship.



SERVANT LIST

It doesn't require a big time commitment to make a big difference around your church.
Consider taking one on of the tasks from our "Servant List".
Check out www.goodshepherdlife.org/betabeta/serviceopportunities for the complete list.

Seamstress/Tailor Needed!

Category: Worship

Date/Time:

Flexible

Time Commitment: 1 hr

Skills needed: basic sewing

Contact:

Pastor Ash at
pastoreic@goodshepherdlife.org
Repair hems, seams and clasps on liturgical vestments

Trash Cleanup

Category: Property

Date/Time: Flexible, Flexible

Time Commitment: 1/2 hr

Contact:

Rose Shirer at rmshirer@comcast.net
An ongoing problem with our front lawn is all the trash that divers and pedestrians throw out. Help keep our property clean by making quick sweep with a trash bag.

Shelter Meal

Category: General

Date/Time: 1/16/2009, 6pm - 9pm

Time Commitment: 3 hrs

Qualifications: Sr. High Youth

Contact:

. Come help us deliver a hearty meal to the homeless men of Pittsburgh's Northside. .
Sign up in the narthex.

Dirty Ceiling

Category: Property

Date/Time: Flexible, Flexible

Time Commitment: 1 hr

Contact: Rose Shirer at

rmshirer@comcast.net

The awning over the entrance to the Education Wing could use a good scrubbing. You'll need a ladder from the basement.

SERVANT RECOGNITION

Thanks so much to the selfless servants that responded to items posted on last months's Servant List:

Ed Helgerman shampooed the Parish House carpet.

Linda Marino dusted the library.

Gretchen Wiesner and Harry McCollum acted in the Advent plays.

Kit Kratzenberg helped set up the Advent dinners.

Others whose names are unknown to us helped with other tasks... THANK YOU!

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

<p><u>Sophie Baranuk</u> Arden Court 120 Wyngate Monroeville, PA 15146 Birthdate: 09/01</p> <p><u>Joanna Fest</u> c/o Paul Fest 934 Harvard Road Monroeville, PA 15146 Birthdate: 05/01</p>	<p><u>Lois Fleming</u> 317 Wellness Way Strabane Trail Village Washington, PA 15301 Phone: 724-229-8121 Birthdate: 10/18</p>	<p><u>Edna Lee</u> The Cedars Room 233 4363 Northern Pike Monroeville, PA 15146 Phone: 412-373-3900 Birthdate: 07/30</p>	<p><u>James Litzinger</u> 118 Kelvington Drive Monroeville, PA 15146 Phone: 412-372-2280 Birthdate: 07/16</p> <p><u>Edna Nield</u> Beatty Point Room 232 700 Beatty Road Monroeville, PA 15146 Phone: 412-373-3702 Birthdate: 11/26</p>
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JANUARY CALENDAR OF CARING

Lutheran Service Society

Lutheran Service Society (LSS) was founded in 1907. It is a private, faith based, not-for-profit organization. LSS provides programs and services for seniors, adoption services, and food and nutritional programs, such as Meals on Wheels, in the Western Pennsylvania area. Governance and guidance for LSS is provided by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, and the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, all of the ELCA.

Please mark your green envelope
Lutheran Service Society.

~ January 2009 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years Day (office closed)	2 7p Al-Anon (1)	3 10a OE (1)
4 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a YABS 10:30a Worship	5	6 9:30a Tuesday Bible Study 1p Parkinson's (FH) 5p Quilt Friend (1) 5:15p Handbell Choir (Beginner) 6:30p Opus II (FH) 7p Handbell Choir (Advanced)	7 1p Staff Meeting 7:15p Recovery (1)	8 12:30p Cluster (PH) 7p DACC (1) 7:30p Adult Choir	9 7p Al-Anon (1)	10 10a OE (1) 6p Gladsond 7p Franklin Squares (FH)
11 8a Worship 9a YABS 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 2p Pew Communion	12 7p Aglow (FH) 7p Thrivent Cares	13 9:30a Tuesday Bible Study 1p Parkinson's (FH) 5:15p Handbell Choir (Beginner) 6:30p Opus II (FH) 7p ASG (1) 7p Handbell Choir (Advanced)	14 12p Over 50's Fellowship (FH) 7:15p Recovery (1)	15 12:30p Cluster (PH) 7p DACC (1) 7:30p Adult Choir	16 8a Pleasant Valley Shelter Meal 7p Al-Anon (1)	17 10a OE (1)
18 8a Worship 9a YABS 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	19 7p Church Committee Meetings 8p Church Council Meeting	20 9:30a Tuesday Bible Study 1p Parkinson's (FH) 5:15p Handbell Choir (Beginner) 6:30p Opus II (FH) 7p Handbell Choir (Advanced)	21 7:15p Recovery (1)	22 12:30p Cluster (PH) 7p DACC (1) 7:30p Adult Choir	23 7p Al-Anon (1)	24 10a OE (1) 7p Franklin Squares (FH)
25 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a YABS 10:30a Worship	26 6p EIS (1)	27 9:30a Tuesday Bible Study 1p Parkinson's (FH) 5:15p Handbell Choir (Beginner) 6:30p Opus II (FH) 7p Handbell Choir (Advanced)	28 6:30p Pgh Knit (1) 7:15p Recovery (1)	29 12:30p Cluster (PH) 7p DACC (1) 7:30p Adult Choir	30 Youth Quake 7p Al-Anon (1) 7p WCWRT (PH)	31

(1) Room 1 (3) Room 3 (FH) Fellowship Hall (PH) Parish House (N) Nursery

January Birthdays

January 1 Anna Marie Apple

January 2 Mitchell Settino
Kris Innes
Edward Helgerman

January 3 Elaine Bishop
Eric Geiselhart

January 4 Joseph Gatto

January 5 Hillarie Alberico

January 6 Matthew Calderone
Edward Spigle

January 7 Raymond Hancsak
Scott Lanzer
Steven Hickman

January 8 Eileen Morabit

January 9 Walter Luniewski
Clyde Hillwig

January 10 John Schwartz, Jr.
Brady Coleman

January 11 Frances Lewis

January 13 George Jae, Sr.
Richard McClain
Robert Locke, Jr.
Robert Robinson

January 14 Shauna Smeltz
Margaret Smith
Judith Wilford
Patricia Cummings
Jeffrey Parrish

January 15 Juliann Smith
Michael Richards

January 16 Jennifer Hickman

January 17 Karen Johnson

January 18 George Baxmeier
Andrew Sites
Nicholas Turowski

January 19 Edward Molnar-Strejcek
Joan Vicinski
Nicole Hellested
Matthew Innes
Rachel Kuhn

January 21 Paul Jagdmann

January 22 Aiden Hickman
Mason Driskill

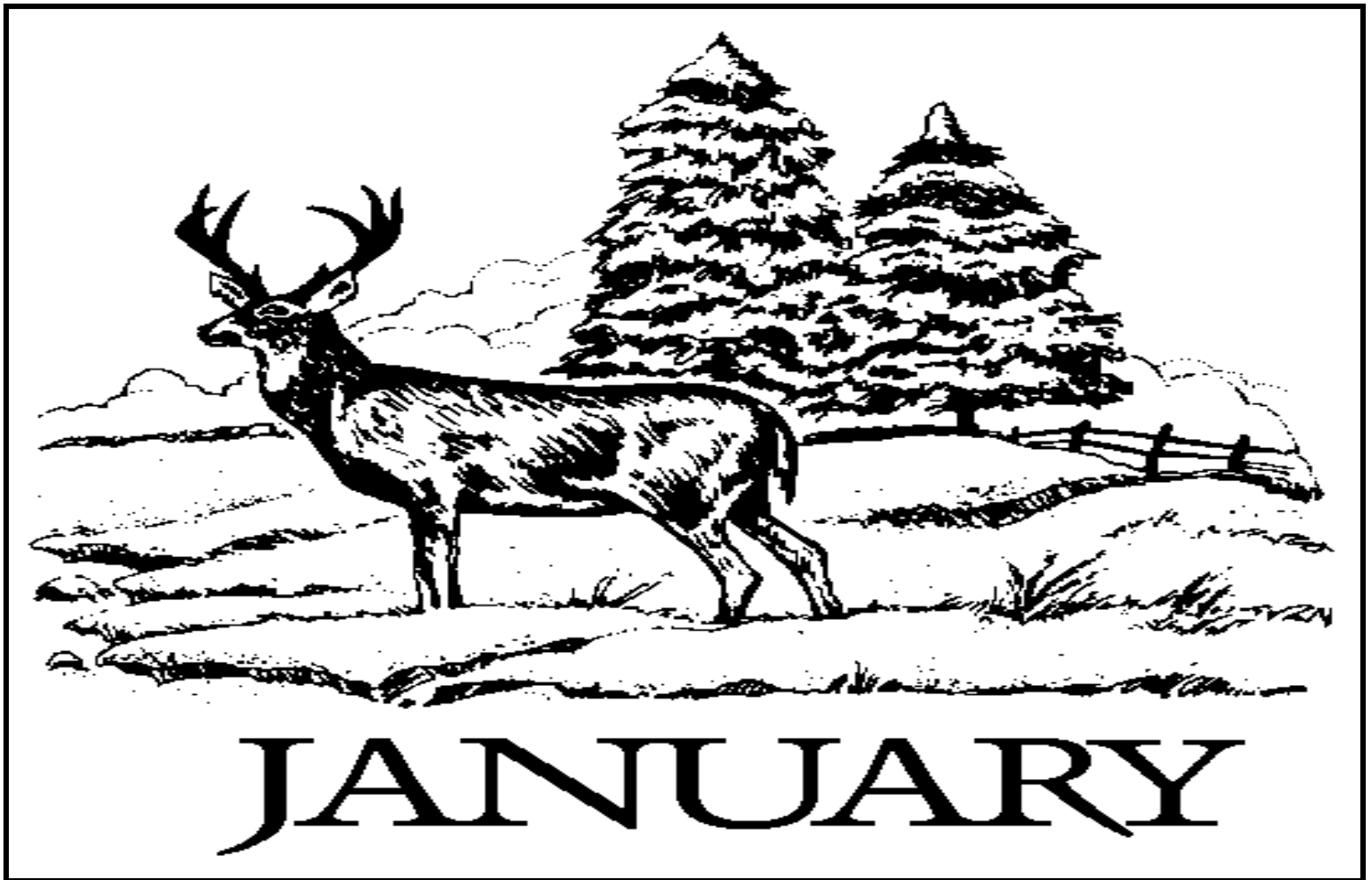
January 23 Harry McCollum
Sandra McClain
Valerie Atticks

January 25 Melsina Thomas

January 28 Andra Asars

January 29 Robert Hesselgesser
Judith Hess

January 30 Mary Lou Meyer



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The Shepherd's Staff is published monthly to serve as a means of communication among members and friends of **The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**. *News items, comments or letters may be submitted to the Editor.*

Desktop Publisher: Bernadine Zvolensky

Editor: Jan Roth

Volunteers: The Mailing Ladies

DATED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY